

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.)

PITTSBURG, Dec. 20.

The river is rising, with five feet three inches water in the channel. Three inches snow fell last night, and it is now melting rain. Thermometer 33°.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.

Mr. Howard presented a petition from the citizens of Michigan, setting forth that the pension law makes provision only for discharged soldiers of the regular army, and who have imperiled their lives in defense of the country, and not for the men of the militia. The petitioners are the members of the militia for the Alabama pirates. The petitions were all referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The House went into committee of the whole, and Mr. Howard, Mr. Mr. Coburn in the chair, and took up the Senate amendments to the deficiency bill for Congressional expenses. After action on the amendments the committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

VIENNA, Dec. 20.

The apportionment of the quotations of the tax, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the needs of the national defense, was taken up in the Senate, and a motion was made to amend the bill so as to apply to soldiers honorably discharged, and disabled from whatever cause, and their dependents. He moved for the petition to the favorable attention of the Committee on Pensions, to which it was referred.

A resolution for the suspension of the work on the iron bridge of Columbus was defeated. The amendment on Mr. Trumbull's motion, confining the suspension to four days, was passed.

Mr. Willey presented a memorial from the delegates to the Virginia reconstruction, asking that the Senate make appropriations and a reading, but objection being made it was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Sherman called up an unfinished business in the Senate, and the committee on the iron bridge of Columbus was referred to the motion to postpone the bill till Monday. To postpone the bill was continued as some length of time. Then Mr. Nye and Sherman. The bill was laid over.

House bill making appropriations for the execution of the reconstruction laws, and for services in the quartermaster's department was referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from the Attorney General transmitting information in regard to the accounts paid during the year ending June 30, 1863, and 1867, to agents employed by the Assistant Attorney General and District Attorney. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Buckley called up his resolution, asking a Select Committee to be appointed to proceed further with the building or equipping of ships-of-war, shall not be in favor of discharging the mechanics and laboring men from the navy yards and the commissary officer.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Adjourned till the 6th of January.

and to live in New York, and claiming to be unlawfully held as a prisoner by the British government, and praying for release from imprisonment.

Also petitions from Henry Lebœuf, Wm. W. Lyon, O. Holden and others, praying that the American Minister to France be directed to present the statement of the claims for the Alabama pirates. The petitions were all referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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Mr. Bandall offered a resolution that the resolutions adopted by the House on the 2d of Nov. 1863, for the distribution of moneys to be used in the construction of ships-of-war, shall not be in favor of discharging the mechanics and laboring men from the navy yards and the commissary officer.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Adjourned till the 6th of January.

WASHINGTON.

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The report of the Secretary of the Treasury to the House to-day shows that the tax collected on distilled spirits in 1863 was \$1,200,000,000, in 1864, \$1,200,000,000, in 1865, \$2,200,000,000, and in 1867, \$28,300,000. Of the last-named amount, New York paid \$50,000, Ohio \$5,652,000, and Illinois \$8,750,000. By an act of July 1, 1862, the tax was to be increased to \$10,000,000 for the year 1864, to \$20,000,000 for 1865, and to \$28,300,000 for 1867.

Mr. Edmunds moved an amendment, directed to the bill to inform the Senate of the tax paid for the 1st department, by his authority during the same period, with the names of the persons to whom it was paid and the service rendered; also whether the reports of trials of men held for trial during that period, and by whom, and the expense. The resolution, with the amendment, was adopted.

Mr. Ramsey offered a resolution to inquire of the Secretary of War whether the Government had any military or naval treasury reservation at Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, and if so, whether, in his opinion, the same should be opened as a settlement, and the Homestead and Exemption laws.

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